

<

Astrologers in O.C.: Planets align for a Clinton victory (/articles/clinton-732130-

UCI's Don Blake travels the world searching for what we breathe (/articles/blake-732105-air-

15 things to do this weekend in Orange County (Oct. 14-16) (/articles/information-

San Juan Capistrano eyes 'River Street' rural-themed project in Los Rios area

>

TOP NEWS

LIFE (/COMMON/ARCHIVES/?CATID=18936)

Profiles: Four local reality-TV stars

Feb. 27, 2006 | Updated Aug. 21, 2013 1:17 p.m.

By PETER LARSEN / The Orange County Register

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

EMAIL

(mailto:?)

subject=OCREGISTER-%20Profiles%3A%20Four%20local%20reality-TV%20stars&body=It%3A%2F%2Fwww.ocregister.com%2Farticles%2Fsays-95263-

experience-zervos.html)

COMMENTS

PRINT

SEND PDF

(/templates/savedata.php?id=95263&headline=Profiles%3A%20Four%20local%20reality-TV%20stars)

LISA TUCKER

Age: 16

Residence: Anaheim

Experience: Won the role of Young Nala in the Los Angeles production of "The Lion King" in 2001, and finished second in the junior singer competition on "Star Search" in 2003.

"I was so nervous going into the first audition," Lisa Tucker says of the trip to Denver she took with her parents, Stanley and Eleanor Tucker, to try out for "American Idol."

It didn't really matter that she felt nervous, either, as it turned out.

After dazzling the judges with a Whitney Houston song, she won rare praise from the toughest, Simon Cowell, who pronounced her the best 16-year-old singer ever to appear on the show.

"It was such a big relief, hearing what Simon and the judges had to say," says Tucker, a senior at Kennedy High School. "But at the same time, I knew it was putting pressure on me."

Not the weight of that pressure shows in Tucker's performances or conversations, mind you. For a teenager, she is remarkably self-assured and grounded.

Still, she admits that the "American Idol" experience, even after just a few weeks of exposure, is like nothing she's ever imagined.

"I was about 10 when I started 'The Lion King,' and that's any kid's dream," she says. "But being on 'American Idol' is such an amazing experience.

"I used to sit in the family room and watch it with my family - and now I'm on it! It's so weird; I'm like, 'Oh my goodness, it's me on TV!'"

Already - as one of the final 20 contestants - life is changing, she says.

MOST POPULAR

Safe and cash snatched from Fullerton restaurant in overnight burglary (http://www.ocregister.com/articles/restaurant-732123-safe-police.html)

Coyote attack of 6-year-old boy playing in park has Irvine on edge (http://www.ocregister.com/articles/coyote-732080-coyotes-hartman.html)

San Clemente home near Nixon's Western White House sells for \$7.58 million (http://www.ocregister.com/articles/house-732100-clemente-western.html)

Dodgers Notes: Kenta Maeda lined up to start NLCS opener against Cubs (http://www.ocregister.com/articles/game-732110-dodgers-series.html)

Dozens paddle out at Doheny to remember Bob Nealy, inventor of Velcro surf leash (http://www.ocregister.com/articles/nealy-732094-surf-san.html)



Moana Dixon shares a moment with Travis Stork.

CRAIG SJODIN, ABC

"I was at the mall the other day, buying a pair of shoes, and the woman at the desk said, 'Oh, my goodness, you're on "American Idol!"' she says. "I didn't know what to say; I just had a big smile on my face.

"People say, 'Oh, you're going to get sick of it,' but no, I'm not getting sick of it. It's so exciting."

Quote

"Getting on the show is a full-time job, and so when you're picked, you think, 'Gosh, it was hard to get there; what's next?'"

Summer Zervos, 'The Apprentice'



JOHN DEVENANZIO

 **Age:** 23

Residence: Fullerton

Experience: Partying in the O.C. Oh, and an economics degree from Pennsylvania State University in 2005.

"My goal out of college was to go into pharmaceutical sales," says John Devenanzio, who last week left Fullerton to move to New York City. "That's kind of the path I was heading - but I was willing to postpone buckling down."

And why not? Because more than anything else, isn't MTV's "The Real World" like college with all the parties and none of the work?

Devenanzio never saw "The Real World" until he went off to college, but he soon was hooked.

His senior year, his roommates pushed him to audition, and after multiple interviews, he got the word right after graduation: He'd won a room in the Key West house and a reprieve from starting his post-college life.

"(I) hadn't taken the necessary steps of getting myself into a long-term profession or even a good job," he says. "I'd made a resume and I'd gone to a couple of job fairs, but I hadn't really been doing a whole lot."

By the time he reached Key West last fall, a nasty hurricane season was in full roar, adding a surreal edge of danger to the usual danger created when amped-up and ego-fueled teens and twentysomethings are forced to live together day and night under the never-blinking eye of a video camera.

Devenanzio hopes the show won't edit him into a total party boy. He says he's also a guy with a good heart who tries to do what's right.

As for the fame that waits just around the corner?

"It's weird to think about now," Devenanzio says. "The show hasn't come out yet, and here I am, hanging out with my buddies, just living this solitary life.

"And in a week, it's never going to be like that again."

SUMMER ZERVOS

 **Age:** 31

Residence: Huntington Beach

Experience: Started as a restaurant salad girl at 13, now owns Sunny's Restaurant in Huntington Beach.

Summer Zervos paid little attention to "The Apprentice" before she auditioned for it last year, but she still felt she knew what to expect.

"When you work at a restaurant, the people who sit at the counter every day, they know everything about everything," Zervos says.

"They watched the show and so we'd talk about what we'd do in those kinds of situations."

She auditioned in Huntington Beach last spring and after many rounds of interviews was chosen for the show.

"Getting on the show is a full-time job, and so when you're picked, you think, 'Gosh, it was hard to get there, what's next?'" Zervos says.

"It's extremely intense," Zervos says of the experience. "Hard work. I learned a lot about myself and how you respond when the pressure's on. I left admiring Donald Trump a lot more than when I arrived."

Hard work and hard times are things she feels she shares with Trump.

Her family had always worked in the restaurant industry, and most still do today, even after business woes caused them to lose their restaurants and to have to start over from scratch.

"They went bankrupt at the same time that Donald Trump did," Zervos says. "He came out a little better than we did."

She loves her restaurant, but the opportunity of "The Apprentice" seemed a once-in-a-lifetime shot.

"Here's a show that provides an opportunity to work for several companies and see how you'd do," Zervos says. "A pretty exciting opportunity, wouldn't you say?"

MOANA DIXON

 **Age:** 27

Residence: San Clemente and Los Angeles

Experience: Most recently worked as a distribution manager for Skyy Spirits.

Moana Dixon didn't go looking for "The Bachelor" - it found her, according to her stepmom, Virginia Dixon.

"They found her on Myspace.com and they had her come in for an interview," Virginia says of Moana's online journal.

"She called me and said, 'Mom, what do you think?'" Virginia says. "She knew what I thought - you couldn't pay me enough."

But Moana was at a point of transition in her life - everything from her theology and philosophy to her job was in flux - and though she tried to back out of the show at the last minute, in the end she agreed to go.

"I said, 'Just don't let this define you, because you have an identity,'" Virginia says.

The six weeks Moana spent in Paris with bachelor Travis Stork were life-changing.

"It's a bubble they create, and they control everything," she says of the show. "She was very, very surprised by the intensity involved in the situation.

"And she also didn't plan on - it's obvious - falling in love with him. She didn't plan on everything that happened."

In one episode, Moana and Travis visited San Clemente to meet her family, a show that created buzz for the tough questions her parents asked him.

"What was unfortunate was there was over 15 hours of filming and seven minutes on the show," Virginia says. "And yes, when your daughter brings someone home and says, 'I'm in love with this person and there's potential for a courtship that might lead to marriage,' we asked tough questions.

"But he's a great guy and we totally hit it off. He's her dad, I can tell you that. A girl looks for her dad and it's the way it is."

Contact the writer: (714) 796-7787 or plarsen@ocregister.com
(<mailto:plarsen@ocregister.com>)

Get Orange County's top stories delivered
free to your inbox every weekday.

[Sign up](#)

DIGITAL & DRIVEWAY DELIVERY - 50% OFF
([HTTPS://OCRSUBSCRIBE.COM/SUBSCRIPTIONPANEL?](https://ocrsubscribe.com/subscriptionpanel?PID=12)
PID=12)



Astrologers in O.C.: Planets align
for a Clinton victory
(</articles/clinton-732130->

UCI's Don Blake travels the world
searching for what we breathe
(</articles/blake-732105-air->

15 things to do this weekend in
Orange County (Oct. 14-16)
(</articles/information->

San Juan Capistrano eyes 'River
Street' rural-themed project in
Los Rios area



TOP NEWS

FROM AROUND THE WEB

selected for you by a sponsor

MORE FROM THE WEB

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

Update: Missing 14-year-old boy found in Huntington Beach
(<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/police-731155-missing-year.html>)

The 9 Orange County people on Forbes' list of richest billionaires in 2016
(<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/ranked-731023-year-billion.html>)

Woman identified who died in Garden Grove car crash
(<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/grove-731416-garden-pole.html>)

Wolf: Sam Darnold's brilliance is making up for the Trojans' bad coaching
(<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/usc-730838-darnold-field.html>)

6-year-old boy attacked by coyote while playing in Irvine park
(<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/coyote-731966-boy-hughan.html>)

Man who died in Santa Ana hit-and-run identified
(<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/hit-731774-santa-redman.html>)

Recommended by

(<http://www.outbrain.com/what-is/default/en>)

[\(/SECTIONS/NEWS/EDUCATION/\)](#)

'The Producers' kicks off Performing Arts at Huntington Beach High season (/articles/producers-731890-play-broadway.html)

Chapman study finds people fear terrorists, government corruption, Islam (/articles/government-731845-respondents-people.html)

Teens get a kick out of helping kids with special needs play soccer (/articles/high-731724-kids-soccer.html)
Here's what it was like inside Paul McCartney's club show at Pappy & Harriet's (/articles/pappy-732127-paul-inside.html)

Wheelchair dance company to conduct workshop at UC Irvine (/articles/dance-732134-hamamoto-infinite.html)

'The Walking Dead' season premiere will upset you, says director Greg Nicotero (/articles/dead-732020-walking-nicotero.html)

[\(HTTP://WWW.OCREGISTER.COM/SECTIONS/BUSINESS/OC-WATCHDOG/\)](#)

Four O.C. senior-living complexes part of \$1.15 billion sale (/articles/senior-732140-living-communities.html)

American needs a housing czar (/articles/percent-732040-year-mortgage.html)

Three 24 Hour Fitness gyms coming to O.C. next year (/articles/hour-732131-quarterly-gyms.html)

Good vibrations: Drink classy wines, ogle classic cars (/articles/marconi-731926-drink-wines-ogle-cars-chardonnay.html)

Brad A. Johnson: Vua Bun Bows to guns (/articles/bun-731930-bone-vua.html)

The Best Thing I Ate This Week: The Hatch slider is a winner (/articles/very-731927-fried-one.html)

[\(HTTP://WWW.OCREGISTER.COM/COMMON/ARCHIVE/CATID=23313\)](#)

Deadly custody: Violent crime plummets in California, but prison deaths double (/articles/deaths-731037-police-enforcement.html)

Fed up with rising robocalls, millions say 'Do Not Call' list doesn't work and want relief (/articles/phone-731005-calls-call.html)

Police might not know where their guns are, and the law says that's OK (/taxdollars/police-730005-wild-pens-guns.html)

Brad A. Johnson: Vua Bun Bows to guns (/articles/bun-731930-bone-vua.html)

The Best Thing I Ate This Week: The Hatch slider is a winner (/articles/very-731927-fried-one.html)

[\(HTTP://WWW.OCREGISTER.COM/SECTIONS/ENTERTAINMENT/\)](#)

Ask Emily: Taking steps to Get doctor lists right (/articles/health-728513-the-walking-dead-season-premiere-will-upset-you-if-says-director-greg-nicotero.html)

The Walking Dead season premiere will upset you, says director Greg Nicotero (/articles/dead-732020-walking-nicotero.html)

This week's TV highlights (/articles/season-731704-new-cho.html)

What tips would 'Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles' real estate agents give Orange County's reality TV newbies? (/articles/dollar-731062-says-ever.html)

OC Home 2016 (<http://www.webpublished.com/gallery/view.asp?seq=287599&path=160107051146>)

OC HOME 2015 (<http://www.webpublished.com/gallery/view.asp?seq=287260&path=151219073601>)

100 Top Workplaces 2015 (<http://www.webpublished.com/gallery/view.asp?seq=286711&path=0151205012126>)

FEATURED MULTIMEDIA

OVAL OFFICE » (/ARTICLES/INFOGRAPHIC-732139-OVALOFFICE-.HTML)



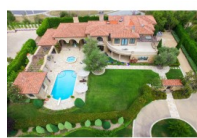
Here's where you can sit in the president's chair (/articles/infographic-732139-ovaloffice-.html)

PHOTO/VIDEO » (/ARTICLES/WOYJECK-732091-KEVIN-BEACH.HTML)



Hotshot firefighter from Seal Beach memorialized with sign on I-405 (/articles/woyjack-732091-kevin-beach.html)

SLIDESHOW » (/ARTICLES/HOUSE-732100-CLEMENTE-WESTERN.HTML)



San Clemente home near Nixon's Western White House sells for \$7.58 million (/articles/house-732100-clemente-western.html)

CARTOONS » (HTTP://WWW.OCREGISTER.COM/ARTICLES/SUBPRISES-732125-TALK-LOCKER.HTML?PIC=1)



Cartoons: The improvised explosive device (<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/surprises-732125-talk-locker.html?pic=1>)

SLIDESHOW » (/ARTICLES/SUBPRISES-732038-HOME-MILLION.HTML)



See inside the new ocean-view house at top of Crystal Cove listed at \$20 million (/articles/surprises-732038-home-million.html)

NIXON LIBRARY » (/ARTICLES/WIDTH-732019-BOX-15PX.HTML)



Infographic: What's new about the renovated Nixon Library (/articles/width-732019-box-15px.html)

PROGRAMS & PROMOTIONS

Nominate an Everyday Hero (<http://www.ocregister.com/sections/heroes/>)

Stay Connected with our E-Mail Newsletters (<http://www.ocregister.com/sections/newsletter/>)

Receive breaking news and newsletters

GO

Enter your email to sign up!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

American Vision Windows (<http://local.ocregister.com/orange-CA/house-and-home/doors-and-windows/American-Vision-Windows-714-997-1025>)

Tarbell Realtors (<http://local.ocregister.com/santa-ana-CA/real-estate/real-estate-agents/Tarbell-Realtors-714-972-0988>)

Lincoln South Coast (<http://local.ocregister.com/santa-ana-CA/auto/auto-dealers/Lincoln-South-Coast-855-711-9224>)

PCH Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning (<http://local.ocregister.com/san-clemente-CA/services/heating-and-air-conditioning/PCH-Sheet-Metal-and-Air-Conditioning-949-361-9905>)

Buscemi Noonan & Associates (<http://local.ocregister.com/sunset-beach-CA/real-estate/real-estate-agents/Buscemi-Noonan-and-Associates-562-592-9826>)

CARS

JOBSD

HOMES

DEALSD

CLASSIFIEDSD

FIND

A

CAR

(http://www.ocregister.com/sections/cars/)

More Orange County Businesses
(http://local.ocregister.com/)

Ads by Google

Dealer Print Specials
(http://ads.ocregister.com/ro.../researchresults/landing)
id=3&adid=0010006393-03)

News and Research
(http://www.ocregister.com/researchresults/landing)

Sell a Car
(http://oc.kaango.com/ads/create)

Find a Dealer
(http://www.ocregister.com/go/findadealer)

Home (/) | News (/Sections/News/) | Sports (/Sections/Sports/) | Business (/Sections/Business/) | Entertainment (/Sections/Entertainment/) | Life (/Sections/Life/) | **Return to Top**
Travel (/Sections/Travel/) | Opinion (/Sections/Opinion/) | Real Estate (/Homes) | Jobs (/Jobs) | Cars (/Cars) | Deals (/Go/Ocmarketplace/) | Classifieds (/Go/Classifieds) |
Place An Ad (/Go/Selfservice)

ADVERTISE OPTIONS	CONTACT OCREGISTER	OCR SERVICES	NEWS YOUR WAY	ADVERTISING	PARTNERS
Self Service (/go/selfservice/)	About Us (/sections/about/)	Archives (/archives/)	Blogs (/sections/blogs/)	Classifieds (/go/classifieds/)	KDOC-TV (http://www.kdoctv.net/)
Place an Online Ad (/go/onlinead/)	Careers (/careers/)	Buy Our Photos (http://ocregister.mycapture.com/sections/ephotos/)	E-Mail Newsletters (sections/ephotos/)	Cars (/cars/)	Unidos (http://www.unidosscc.com/)
Place a Print Ad (/go/printad/)	Contact Us (/contactus/)	California Lottery (/lottery/)	E-Register (http://ocregister.ca.newsmemory.com/)	Deals (/go/ocmarketplace/)	Coast Magazine (http://www.coastmagazine.com/)
Place a Classified Ad (/go/classifieds/)	Corrections (/sections/corrections/)	Deals (/go/ocmarketplace)	Mobile (/mobile/)	Jobs (/jobs/)	Freedom Printing (http://www.freedomprinting.net/)
Media Kit (http://www.freedomnewsgr...)	Customer Service (/sections/help/)	Register Rewards (http://rewards.ocregister.com/)	Real Estate (/realestate/)	Place a Classified Ad (/go/classifieds/)	OC Register Family (http://www.ocfamily.com)
Advertising Contact Info (/contactus/)	Register Today (/sections/subscribe/)	Register in Education (/rie/)	RSS (/sections/rss/)	View our Media Kit (http://www.freedomnewsgr...)	Southland Golf (http://www.southlandgolfmagazine.com)
	Upgrade to 7-days (/sections/sevendayupgrade/)	Obituaries (http://obits.ocregister.com/obituaries/orangecounty/)	Site Map (/sections/sitemap/)		
	Subscriber Services (/sections/help/)	Facebook Comments FAQs (/articles/commenting-320181-facebook-faqs.html)	Video (/video/)		
	Site Help (/sections/help/)				
	Site Feedback (/sections/help/contactus/)				

